Postal and Telegraph Service

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IF historical tradition is to be believed, then it can scarcely be said that any country has prospered under the temporary domination of a foreign power. Intentions may be for the benefit of the invaded country or of a more nefarious character, but seldom has such an occupation of a country ended with bettered conditions. Such was the result of the Turkish domination of Albania. This nation's postal and telegraphic service was left in such a miserable condition that it could not satisfy even the most primitive needs. The regular telephone system did not exist, and there was practically nothing that could be called a regular postal organization, for all that remained were ten poor post offices that were too disorganized to be of any assistance to the country.

Within the last decade the Albanian postal and telegraph system has been developed to a surprising efficiency. There are over fifty-seven of such offices with one general post office in Tirana and nine district offices scattered throughout the country in the larger and more important towns. 206

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The telegraph system is more highly developed than the telephone system. The former service has at its disposal a net of about two thousand miles of wire for the inland service —this is almost the same in proportion to its size as any other European country. This same organization also has three submarine cables for foreign service, namely: Durazzo-Brindisi, Valona-Otranto and Valona-Brindisi; and to Yugoslavia on the north are two more long-distance connections: One via Cetinje and one via Dibra (Dibër). The other country directly connected with Albania through this system is Greece which is reached by one line via Salonica and another via Janina.

In further cooperation with the telegraph system is the three kilowatt wireless station of Tirana, which is in regular connection with Brindisi, Vienna and Zagreb.

The telephone service is rapidly being more fully developed. The local lines are in excellent condition in the larger towns and many of these are connected with each other. Much

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206 is being done to further the advancement of this necessity to the business men.

[205] Since her rapid strides in development have begun, Albania, since 1922, is a member of the Union Postal Universelle, of the Union Télégraphique Universelle, and later, in 1925, has become a member of the Union Radiolé-télégraphique Universelle.